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42 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 AUG 1999

09/380106

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Goethals, et al. ) Group Art Unit Unknown  
Int'l )  
Appl. No. : PCT/EP98/01117 )  
Int'l Filing )  
Date : February 19, 1998 )  
For : PLANT MICROPROPAGATION )  
AND GERMPLASM STORAGE )  
Examiner : Unknown )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S. National Phase Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1 of the Specification, after the Title of the Invention and before the Field of the Invention statement starting on line 1, please insert --This is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application PCT/EP98/01117, filed February 19, 1998.--.

On page 16 before Claim 1, please delete the word "CLAIMS" and substitute therefor --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Sub B1 1. (Amended) [Method] A method for [the *in vitro* preparation of starting materials for] plant micropropagation and/or storage of germplasm, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting plant material with a [micro-organism] microorganism that induces fasciation and/or one or more fasciation-inducing factors derived from the [micro-organism] microorganism or derived from the infected and/or fasciated tissue;

(b) developing leafy galls or shoot outgrowths on the plant material; and